

“All Too Human Church”
Various Scriptures

Principle: We are the body of Christ visible to a pagan planet.

Principle: Absolute power corrupts absolutely

Religion is about power

Christianity is about influence

“Again the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Matthew 4:8, 9

Power – attempt to change others

Influence- attempts to change oneself

Power – tempts us to believe we need to convince, coerce or overpower others

Influence – leads us to be kind, forgiving and loving

Principle: Only the Holy Spirit can change someone

“Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.” John 6:15

“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.” Matthew 26:52

“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.” Luke 9:51-56

“Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Matthew 16:12

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.” 1 Peter 2:21

“Somehow we all know that to play it safe is to lose the game.” Erwin McManus

What do you do when godly people do ungodly things to you?

What not to do when you hurt:

1. Don't ignore it (Psalms 39:2,3)
2. Don't run from it (Psalms 55:6,8)
3. Don't hide your hurt (Psalms 32:8, James 5:16)
4. Don't worry about it (Job 5:2)
5. Don't resent it (Job 18:4)

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows." Psalms 23:5

What to do when you hurt:

1. Let Jesus settle the score (Romans 12:17,19)
2. Let Jesus soothe your wounds (Psalms 147:3)
3. Let Jesus satisfy your needs
 - With hope (Romans 15:13)
 - With love (1 Thessalonians 3:12)
 - With joy (John 16:24)

Life group questions:

- Share a time in your life when you have been hurt by another Christian (Church). Are you still walking in that hurt? If not, share how you were able to overcome.
- Has the world been better off because of Christianity? Why or why not?
- How do you respond to someone who says that Christianity has been the root of a lot of evil and pain in the world?
- What is our responsibility to Christians who are giving God a "bad name"?